

OCTOBER 2026



THE UNITED BENEFICE OF LORTON AND LOWESWATER WITH BUTTERMERE

£7.00 PER ANNUM (LOCAL)
£15.00 PER ANNUM (POSTED)

Letter from the Editor

Dear Link Readers

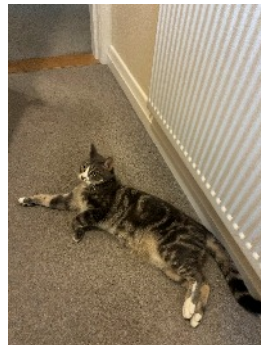
Once again a very full edition with lots going on during October including a Race Night at YTH, the restart of film nights, the ever popular Apple Day, Harvest Festivals and lunch/supper at Lorton and Loweswater, a talk at Lorton Vale Gardening Club, Flu jabs at YTH and a coffee morning at LVH.

We have also included an update about the beech tree in St Cuthbert's church yard, an eco church update and an intro to the new Head of Lorton School.

There is also a call for photos for the Lorton Vale Calendar, which this year will be raising funds jointly for St Cuthbert's and Linking Lives.

I hope you enjoy our centre spread featuring photos from Loweswater Show.

I'm sure you all missed a photo of Charlie the Cat last month - here he is taking his role of Sub-Editor very seriously



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removals. Tree pruning, reductions
and removals. Chipping.*

Our front cover photo this month is by Roger Hiley showing the Cockermouth Mountain Rescue Team at Loweswater Show - appropriate as they are recipients of funds raised at the St Cuthbert's Harvest Festival



Recently, I was listening to the biblical account of the betrayal and heavily armed arrest of Jesus, at Gethsemane. The instinctive, defensive reaction of one of Jesus's companions was to strike back, cutting off the ear of the high priest's servant. It was Jesus's response to his friend that caught my attention: "Put your sword back in its place. For all who draw the sword will die by it." (Matthew 26:52)

It struck me (excuse the pun) that while Jesus was issuing a warning about the use of a physical weapon, it can also be true in a metaphorical sense. When we find ourselves in a heated discussion with someone whose opinion we strongly disagree with, when we feel we've not been heard or our opinion has been rejected, it can be a natural response to "draw our sword" both in defence and offence. We experience this in face-to-face relationships, and in wider society the presence of social media has only exacerbated this tendency. When once, we may have shouted at the TV, now we can draw our sword against "faceless people" and strike in ways that have much more damaging effects, leading to deepening division and polarisation. "All who draw the sword will die by the sword" Jesus said; metaphorically speaking, striking out against others with angry words leads to the death of healthy dialogue and poisons relationships.

So, what might help us resist the instinct to "reach for our pistol", and instead be a little more generous in trying to listen and understand where the "other" is coming from?

The late Henri J.M. Nouwen, writing about hospitality, offers an interesting perspective: "Hospitality....is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines. It is not to lead our neighbour into a corner where there are no alternatives left, but to open a wide spectrum of options for choice and commitment." (*Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life*)

To build rather than destroy community requires a shift from seeing disagreement in conversation as a win/lose situation, and having the courage to create space to hear and engage with different views; to try and see the person before us not as an opponent but as our neighbour, whose perspective has been influenced by their unique personal history and life experiences, just as has ours. This is no small challenge, but putting aside our swords gives a much greater chance of disagreeing with mutual respect and dignity, even when our differences remain unresolved.

Every blessing,
Andrea Ward

For anyone wanting to receive home communion or in need of pastoral support, please contact:

Revd. Barbara Robinson, 01900 85234 or 07961902075. Please leave a message and I will get back to you asap. If your need is urgent please contact Revd. Jane Charman, Mission Community Leader on 01900 828028



Coffee Morning



**Saturday
14th November
10.30 am**

**Lorton Vale Calendars
available to view and order**

**Supporting
St Cuthbert's Church &
Friends of Lorton School**

Join us



**Christmas Fair Raffle Tickets & Christmas
Cards available to buy on the day**



**Yew Tree Hall
Lorton**



We've been 'digging around' for speakers for the new season and come up with a perfect start. Mark Hatton, a renowned geologist and mining expert will be giving an illustrated talk on the Elizabethan Miners of Cumbria, hopefully with specific reference to the influence they had on mining in the Loweswater and Buttermere areas. The talk will be in Loweswater Village Hall on the 20th of October at 7.30pm.

This event will kick-start our 50th year as a Club, so watch out for Helicopters, Drones, Music, Burns Nights, Clocks, Guide Books to the Lakes, a Big Party and a Summer Trip to round off what we hope will be another successful year.

Tuesday 20th October

The Story of the German Miners in Elizabethan Cumbria

Loweswater Village Hall at 7.30pm

Tea & Coffee served after the Talk



Illustrated talk
by Mark Hatton

**Members Free
Visitors £5**



Mark Hatton, Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society, will give an illustrated talk about Copper Miners who arrived in Keswick from Germany in 1564. - bringing new technologies to the local mining industry.



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NIGHT AT THE
Yew Tree Hall
RACES
HOT SUPPER, BAR AND RAFFLE



Place your Bets (cash please)

Saturday 24th October

A Fun Evening with 5 Races on the Big Screen

Doors open 6.30pm.

First Race 7.00pm

TICKETS £20

Catherine Armstrong
(07917 795404)
Nige Lee
(07827 338834)

All proceeds: Yew Tree Hall

**Name your
own Horse
for £2**

(please let us know)

"The Nev-erending Story"

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HALL**

**Film
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Everyone Welcome - just come along

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BLANCHETT**

**MICHAEL
FASSBENDER**

**MARISA
ABELA**

**BLACK
BAG**

**TOM
BURKE**

**NAOMIE
HARRIS**

**REGÉ-JEAN
PAGE**

**AND PIERCE
BROSINAN**

**Thursday
15th Oct**

Bar opens 7pm

Film Start 7.30pm

*“A sleek, stylish, star-powered
tale of love, loyalty and secrets
- one of 2025’s ten best films!”*

*(Aron Medeiros, Hawaii Film
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Melbreak Communities APPLE DAY



Friends of Lorton School

Saturday, 3rd October

Lorton Primary School | 10am - 2pm

FREE ENTRY

- 🍏 Press apples into juice • Make block prints • Apple games • 🍰 Cakes and drinks • Apple ID and growing advice

Bring clean apples from your garden and turn them into freshly pressed juice to take home.

There will be plenty to share if you don't have apples of your own.



FREE ENTRY | ALL WELCOME

What to bring

Clean apples without major bruises or rot. Small and knobbly ones are fine—no need to peel.

Clean bottles to take your juice home in. An old milk bottle works perfectly—ideally use 1 litre (2 pint). If you can, sterilise it at home with something like Milton Sterilising Fluid.

One supermarket bag of apples makes roughly 1 litre of juice. We suggest a 50p donation per litre.



Please note

The juice we press on the day is not pasteurised. Please drink it within 2–3 days, or freeze it straight away.

Have apples to share?

Get in touch with Zindzi on 07983568965 or zindzic@gmail.com if you'd like to arrange a collection from your garden.



Harvest Festival

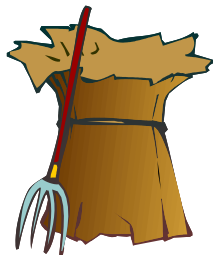
*St Bartholomew's Loweswater
with St James's Buttermere
Celebrate at St Bartholomew's on
Sunday October 4th at 10.30 am*

Tatie Pot Supper & Auction

*On Monday October 5th 2026
Loweswater Village Hall 7.00 pm
Admission £13.00 Children £6.50*

For catering we need to know numbers please.

*To reserve your place please ring:
Jan Collins-Webb on 01900 85609
or Eleanor Ella 07756 341163*



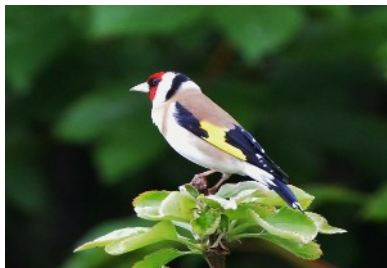
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Nature Notes - Feeding the Birds



Research has shown a worrying decline in some of our much-loved garden birds due to a highly contagious disease called trichomonosis. This can spread where birds gather in large numbers such as at bird feeders. Greenfinches, for example, have dropped by over 65% in the last 30 years. The RSPB and BTO have worked to find a solution, and believe we can make a difference by feeding birds seasonally, pausing some feeding from 1 May to 31 October, when natural food is available, but providing supplementary food after October.

Pause feeding seeds and peanuts from 1 May to 31 October, when there is more risk of the disease spreading. Birds can have small amounts of suet, fat balls and mealworms during this period because these protein-rich foods help boost chick survival rates. Also, finches are less attracted to fat and suet, so the risk of spreading disease is likely to be lower. Feeding seeds and peanuts can be restarted from November. Clean bird feeders and bird baths weekly and change the water daily. Stop using flat-surfaced feeders and bird tables, since birds that are sick with trichomonosis often perch on flat surfaces where they attempt to feed. Without these changes, it is likely that trichomonosis will continue to spread amongst our garden birds and cause further declines in their populations.

One of the best ways to support garden birds in the long-term is to help them find their own food by filling your outdoor space with bird-friendly plants. These help provide natural food sources. The RSPB recommends growing a mix of native trees, shrubs, and seed-bearing plants to provide year-round natural food, shelter, and nesting sites for garden birds. Examples include:

Trees and Shrubs (For Berries, Insects, and Cover):

Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Rowan/Mountain Ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*), Ivy (*Hedera helix*)

Flowers and Seed-Bearing Plants (For Finches and Sparrows):

Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Sunflowers (*Helianthus*), Echinacea, Rudbeckia, Comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*).

If you only have space for one, Teasel plants are really great throughout the year, attracting insects with their purple flowers in the summer. In the winter the seed heads dry out and provide food for goldfinch. Teasel seeds are rich in fats and carbohydrates. Goldfinches have long and narrow beaks, which means it can be difficult for them to pull big seeds out of flowers

October is a good month for planting while there is still warmth in the soil and before the frosts arrive and frozen ground makes planting difficult. Garden Centres and nurseries will have a range of bare rooted hedging and fruit bushes available. The birds and other wildlife will thank you.

Dave Smith

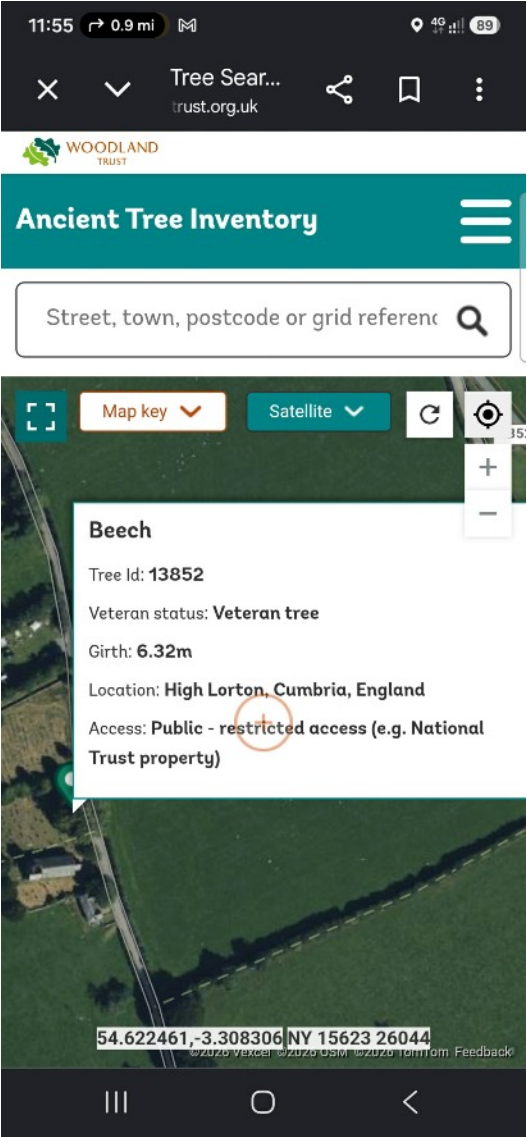
ST CUTHBERT'S BEECH TREE UPDATE

St Cuthbert's PCC feel it is incumbent upon us to publish an update about the beech tree in the church yard adjacent to Church Lane. In recent months 2 large branches have come down over the road. Thankfully neither property nor individuals were affected by these falls, but they are concerning.

After the first branch failure we immediately commissioned a tree survey by a Technician Member of the Arboricultural Association. A summary of the recommendations is as follows:

- Undertake a selective reduction of the uppermost and most exposed portions of the eastern, southern and western principal stems, concentrating pruning within the upper crown to reduce wind loading whilst retaining as much functional leaf area as reasonably practicable.
- The works are not intended to produce a uniform geometric crown reduction. Retain as much of the lower crown and live foliage as reasonably practicable, with particular emphasis on maintaining the tree's existing functional leaf area.
- Following completion of the specified crown reduction, replace or supplement existing steel cable bracing that remains connected and potentially under tension. An additional dynamic support arrangement should be installed, comprising: a triangular arrangement connecting the central, eastern and southern stems; an inverted V arrangement connecting the central stem to the two principal components of the western stem; and a triangular arrangement connecting the northern, central and southern stems.
- Remove redundant or disconnected cable bracing and associated metalwork that has previously been taken out of service and remains coiled within the crown.
- Following reduction of the other principal stems, make a final arboricultural judgement as to whether limited reduction of the central stem is required to avoid leaving it disproportionately exposed to wind loading.

The PCC’s only other option if we do not undertake the tree management recommendations, is to fell the tree completely. Our Arboriculturalist feels this is an unnecessarily drastic step, given that the tree is registered on The Woodland’s Trust Ancient Tree Inventory, being significant not only locally but regionally for its size and stature for the species.



COMMUNITY LUNCH

£8.00

Served promptly at 1.15pm.



Monday Oct. 12th

At Lorton School

Booking essential
call Helen on 07790 459064

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By popular demand we are delighted to welcome back

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Including the music of

Queen



Friday November 20th at 7.30

Tickets £5 and Sausage Baps for the interval, (to be ordered in advance), £4

Licensed Bar & Refreshments

There will be a competition for the best Queen-themed outfit (Bring your own air guitar, chevron moustache and upright vacuum!)

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LORTON NOTES

As Eleanor mentions in her Notes, the service at Loweswater Show was a great success and I have included a couple of photos here. We had well over 60 attend and the playing of the band and the accompanying singing was 'robust'.



Plans are now well underway for our Harvest Festival and Lunch on 11th October - please see the poster on page 31 - which now includes the price. Seasonal fare will as usual include tatiepots, apple pies & crumble with cream and custard. A vegetarian option will be available. Don't forget to bring your own liquid refreshments as there is no bar this year. The money raised from the Harvest events will be shared equally between Cockermouth Mountain Rescue and the Bishop's Harvest Appeal. Cockermouth Mountain Rescue is a charity, financed totally by voluntary donations. Their vehicles, equipment, training and base cost them around £100,000 per year, every year! This year sees the culmination of the three year programme from the Bishop's Harvest appeal of support for Christian Aid's work in Burkina Faso, helping families in rural communities to find sustainable sources of food, income and dignity; and partnering with Church Mission Society in Northern Argentina to grow new indigenous Christian leaders for ministry.

We will be decorating the church for harvest on Friday afternoon from 2pm as there is a coffee morning on Saturday.

Rosemary Riley



talk by
Natasha Coleman
Activity Lead at Growing Well

(non members welcome to attend £4)



Charity established in South Cumbria in 2004, with the aim of supporting adults improve their mental health.

The charity is now established in West Cumbria, Tebay and Kendal with each site having the capacity to support up to 300 individuals each year.

(The talk by Natasha will be preceded by a short AGM)

Tash has a PhD in rural landscape transitions, and environmental research. Her experience includes conservation and teaching - the connection between people and land.



Thursday 29th October

Yew Tree Hall at 7.30pm please park responsible

St Bartholomew's Cream Teas

What an amazing afternoon, one valley participant, commented on it being the best party in years! Thanks to everyone for making and preparing the scones, the delicious cakes, to all who worked so hard on the day and thank you also to everyone who came and enjoyed the "goodies". Sue and Chris Todd gave us permission to use their field for parking, contributing to making the afternoon a very successful event. The Cumbrian weather seemed to work in our favour and encourage people to come in. It was good to catch up with everyone. We made an excellent £919.00

Thank You.
Churchwardens

Montage of images from the 2026 Lowe

<https://www.loweswatercam.co.uk/260>



Loweswater Show, courtesy of Roger Hiley

0906_Loweswater_Show_2026.htm



Lorton Vale Gardening Club



Another year gone and as Bob Dylan sang 'The times they are a' changing'. If only the answers were 'Blowing in the wind'.... A summer of extreme heat, rain and humidity has played havoc with gardens and nature everywhere as we all try to adapt.

The first garden visit in May, was to Matson Ground, Windermere. On a chilly day, a knowledgeable and engaging head gardener accompanied our group around the garden, explaining its history and development and answering questions, while we enjoyed its diversity, colour and the amazing views.

The Summer Party, rescheduled due to rain, was generously hosted by Stephen and Anne Revell at High Mill, Lorton. A sunny and sociable evening (with delicious food and wine), was greatly appreciated in this beautiful and peaceful setting by the beck, including a fabulous wild flower area and a very productive vegetable and fruit garden, aiming at self- sufficiency. Muncaster Mill Garden, open for the first time, has a unique history. The garden and woodland have been planted and developed by the owners over 20 years, with nature in mind. Set on various levels, it includes two large ponds as well as colourful flowers and natural plantings attractive to pollinators. There are wonderful views across the Eskdale valley and fells which were enjoyed from the shade of a tree on a very hot day!

Woodend in Egremont, visited on another hot day, is a compact hillside garden (once part of a golf course!) and was alive with colour, texture and form including copious flowers, shrubs, succulents, fruit and vegetables - a smorgasbord for the senses - all to be explored from pathways, shaded arbours and a summerhouse.

Yewbarrow House, Grange, 'More Cornwall than Cumbria' according to Country Life, is also a hillside garden. There were expansive views across Morecambe Bay, a colourful blaze of dahlias and some unusual tropical planting, but disappointingly fell far short of expectations and seemed, sadly, quite neglected.

The last visit was to Holehird Gardens, Windermere, home of the Lakeland Horticultural Society - well known to many and always a pleasure to revisit, always interesting and always meets expectations, whatever the time of year.

We have a great programme of Thursday talks to inspire during the winter months -

29th October 7.30pm. 'Growing Well' Natasha Coleman (see poster) follows a brief AGM.

12th November 7.30pm. 'A Wealth of Weeds' Elizabeth Woodcock

10th December 1.30pm. 'Perennial Weeds' Bronwyn Thomas (Acorn Bank)

25th February 1.30pm. 'Wildlife & Food Production in the Ullswater Catchment'

Danny Teasdale

11th March 7.30pm. 'Meconopsis' Helen Knowles (Tinnisburn Plants)

8th April 7.30pm. 'Climbing Plants' Lyn Brunetti

Do join us - Membership is only £12 and new members and guests (£4) are always welcome. Please contact the Membership Secretary, Fiona Lambrick fionalambrick50@gmail.com

Talks are at Yew Tree Hall, Lorton. Please note - the venue for some 2027 talks may change.

Karen

**Save
the
Date**

**New Year's Eve
PARTY**

DECEMBER 31st
8.00 pm til late **£20**

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Yew Tree Hall

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Penny's Piece

At the time of writing, our poor editor will rightly be tutting loudly as I am late. There are several reasons for this. Firstly, it has been one of those weeks where there have been Committee meetings and after school training for 4 out of 5 nights and secondly, I got the date wrong- thought it was next week!

So, I did get on the ferry to Shetland and thankfully it was not rough. We got up to Aberdeen in good time but because of the relatively small size of my car, I had to park in the lower deck. This meant we were nearly last off the boat each time. The guys who get you parked up and reversed out are brilliant. The sleeping arrangements were good given we hadn't forked out on a cabin. In fact, it was more civilised than I expected in the lie-flat pods. 18 of us in a room. People were on the whole respectful of each other but some people need to learn how to close a door and not let it slam. I felt the shower needed more than one plughole as if the boat was rocking one way, the water didn't go down. Arriving in Lerwick the next morning, almost felt like popping into Keswick early and out of season. Similar vibe to the shops and cafes. The drive to our accommodation gave the first real views of Shetland. I don't know if it is possible to describe somewhere as being beautiful and bleak at the same time, but that is how I felt. It is like being on Shap or Bowes Moor, permanently. Lack of trees was odd. The plus side of that was all the cars still looked bright and shiny as there is nothing to scratch it on. There are passing places on many roads and they are not part of a fell with a gorse bush sticking out of it. The best views were across the beaches. Those of you who have been or have watched the tv series Shetland, will have seen the white sand beaches and the blue sea. Those images on tv have not been touched up. It really is like that. Having been in the lake a lot this year, I was brave enough to have a dip. I lasted approximately one and half minutes. I thought this was good as I am not going in, in a wet suit. It was freezing but I can say I have swum at 60 ° latitude- that's the same as Oslo and the southern tip of Greenland.

We spent most days walking. We walked for hours and felt like lots of the island had been covered. But then you look at the map and realise you've hardly touched it. Being bird watchers, we were pleased to see the thousands of gannets up towards Muckle Flugga (northernmost lighthouse in UK) and were lucky enough to see some puffins too. These were

not expected as usually they have all gone back out to sea by August. They really are the clowns of the bird world. Flying does not look easy and landing less so, with their bright orange feet and colourful beaks. But they are curious and interesting to watch. We also saw some skua, known locally as Bonxies and seals. Accompanying all the birds, casually hanging around, totally unbothered by the wind, people, sea or cliff edges were the sheep. On Unst, there were a couple of cattle grids but largely it looked like the sheep had the run of the isle and I saw several different farmer's marks showing it must be common land. I would not know where to start if they need to gather that area. Good dogs would be needed anyway. There were lots of little quirks on the outer isles too. On one walk, heading along the road back to the car, I moved into the side to let a car past and received a very enthusiastic wave in thanks. It was the type of wave which had me thinking that they thought they knew me. It was later discovered, after receiving further waves when driving about, that on Yell and Unst (probably the other isles too) locals wave or generally acknowledge all cars. I decided to join in and return the acknowledgements. In a strange way, it made traffic more cheerful. The inter-island ferries were easy to use and regular like buses. I have also had some interesting history updates. I had never heard of The Shetland Bus but the link between Norway and Shetland goes far beyond Vikings. I'll let you look it up. On the day we were due to leave to return home, we drove over the hill above Lerwick and were met with the sight of two large cruise ships. One in the harbour and the other offshore. Lerwick was Keswick in peak season. . . for a few hours. At 4pm it was quiet and lots of the cafes closed up. The cruise ships sailed out at 5. This was handy as our ferry couldn't have gone anywhere until they went.

Would I go again? Yes. It is clean, there are bins on carparks, laybys and clean, free public toilets all over the place. Also, there is so much still to explore and hopefully we'd see some whales.

Thank you to the volunteers who helped on the gate on show day. Tickets are still available for: A Brief History of Music on 2nd October. Call or email for tickets and ploughman's. Penny

ECO CHURCH/ECO COMMUNITY UPDATE

Eco Church have published an Eco Tips Calendar for 2026, here is what they suggest for October;

Greening your home this Autumn. Tackle climate change and reduce your heating bills by finding and reducing the draughts in your home. Find the gaps that let cold air in and warm air out (keyholes, letterboxes and gaps around windows, doors, loft hatches and floorboards for example). Do what you can to fix these gaps - there are lots of tutorials on how to do this online. It's also a good time to prepare for winter by putting radiator reflector foil or baking foil behind the radiator. This will reflect heat back into your room.

The Lorton Eco Church sub-committee is meeting in November, so expect an update our plans for 2027 in the Dec/Jan Link.

In the meantime I would like to remind you all that we have a battery recycling point in St Cuthbert's, as well as a donation point for the North Lakes Food Bank. These have not been well used in recent months so please do try to remember to use them.

DIGITAL CHAMPIONS

A few months ago Lois Sparling and I attended a community training course to explain how we could become Digital Champions in order to provide IT support to those who need it. A Digital Champion is someone who supports and improves the digital skills of members of the community to build digital confidence, motivation and new IT skills. We are now members of a Digital Champions Network which gives us access to lots of resources that will help us support you.

So if you have an IT issue, or simply need some support accessing the digital world then please contact either Lois or myself. Lois - community.chaplain.gmc@gmail.com, Rosemary - rriley@rileysolutions.co.uk

Rosemary Riley



NOTES FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S AND ST JAMES'S

Fortunately the weather for show day was kind this year unlike last year when it was rained off early. As usual we had our service of Blessing of the show, led by Lois with the Mechanics Band supplying the music. This year we had a gazebo for the St. James's Restoration Appeal selling slates, cards etc and raised in excess of £200 plus 6 slates and other donations on the card machine. We now have new cards for sale in Buttermere which includes a lovely photo of Rannerdale bluebells. We are grateful to Laura Connolly and Lois for their support in preparation and on the day.



I am delighted to report the Wainwright window has been restored (see photo) just in time for the wedding of Edward and Paige. A second valley wedding when the couple left in a tractor!



St. Bartholomew's celebrates Harvest on 4th October followed as usual by tattie pot harvest supper on Monday. We will be decorating the church on Saturday and are grateful for any offerings of fruit, veg, preserves and non perishables for the Food Bank. Proceeds to be shared between the Bishop's Appeal and the church.

Our All Souls' service will take place on Sunday 4th November at 3pm at St. James Buttermere. This is an occasion when we give thanks as we remember our departed loved ones whose names will be read out during the service. All are most welcome to attend.

Finally, a reminder that Buttermere services will change to 3pm as the clocks change on Sunday 25th October.

Eleanor Ella

From St. Bartholomew's register - Funeral: 24th August: Hugh Ralph

From St. James's register - Marriage: 12th September: Edward Beard and Paige Helm



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Loweswater with Buttermere PCC
100 Challenge Club

The prizewinners for the draw held on 1st September 2026

1st prize of £25	No 53	Betty Coulthard
2nd prize of £10	No 14	Kathryn Mitchell
3rd prize of £5	No 25	Carol Priestley

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all our supporters.

From Sue Ralph

Thank you to everybody who sent me cards, flowers and messages of sympathy over Hugh's death.

I was overwhelmed by so much love and support. Our Valley Community is truly special.

Hello! I'm Rob, the new Head of School at Lorton.

It is an absolute privilege to lead such an amazing school into its next phase, and I cannot wait to share our journey and progress with you over the coming years.

I have already met some of you and am delighted to see that the sense of community is alive and thriving in Lorton, something that is increasingly rare to find. Over the next three years, I have many exciting plans for the school and our children, and I would like to invite you to an open afternoon on Tuesday 13th October, from 4.00pm to 5.00pm. This will be a great opportunity to explore our projects in more detail and see what we have been getting up to in school.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. In the meantime, if you have any skills, talents, or expertise that you would like to share in support of our school, please do get in touch!

Anything else, just let me know.

Thanks,

Rob Reid
Head of School
Lorton School

Tel: 01900 85919



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There's still time to book your tickets for our next Arts Out West evening, on Friday October 2nd at 7.30, when we will be presenting "A Brief History of Music", by GreenMatthews. Chris Green and Sophie Matthews combine long forgotten songs and tunes, (not to mention jokes!), to paint a vibrant picture of our musical DNA, framed with the wit of "Blackadder" & "1066 And All That"!

There will be a licensed bar, and a Ploughman's Supper available in the interval, (advance booking essential). For full details please see the poster in the September edition of the Link. Tickets are available from Penny on 07766 888102 or loweswaterevents@gmail.com. A week later on Saturday October 10th we will be hosting the month's Melbreak Communities Coffee Morning. Alongside the opportunity to meet and catch up with friends and neighbours, there will be the usual coffee and selection of delicious cakes, as well as wildlife stalls representing photographic prints from Rosamund and John Macfarlane, project updates, displays and sales from Melbreak Wildlife Group and Lorton & Loweswater Valleys Butterfly Calendar sales, courtesy of Stuart Medland. For full details please see the poster in this edition of the Link.

Looking a little further ahead to Friday November 20th we are very pleased to welcome back, by popular demand, Cath & Emma, with music from Queen. (Themed dress will be encouraged!)

There will be a licensed bar, and Sausage Baps, (ordered in advance), will be available in the interval. For full details, please see the poster in this month's edition of the Link.



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FLU JABS AT YEWE TREE HALL

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2026

9.30AM–11.30AM



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Melbreak Wildlife Group

presents

Wild Ennerdale

A talk by Gareth Browning MBE

Gareth is a founding partner of Wild Ennerdale. He will provide an overview and short history of the Wild Ennerdale Partnership, and then focus on a number of themes including reintroductions, water and woodlands.



7.30pm Thursday 26th November

Yew Tree Hall, High Lorton

£3.00 entry, tea/coffee and biscuits available before the talk.

All welcome!

www.melbreakcommunities.wordpress.com



CALL FOR PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE LORTON VALE CALENDAR

Have you taken any photographs of anywhere in our valley (from Haystacks down to the lower reaches of the Cocker) over the past year that you're keen to share? We would love to see them and consider them for inclusion in the LORTON VALE CALENDAR for 2027.

Proceeds from the sales of this year's calendar, produced as always by St Cuthbert's, Lorton, will be split between the church and brilliant local charity Cockermouth Linking Lives

All photos need to be:

Landscape format

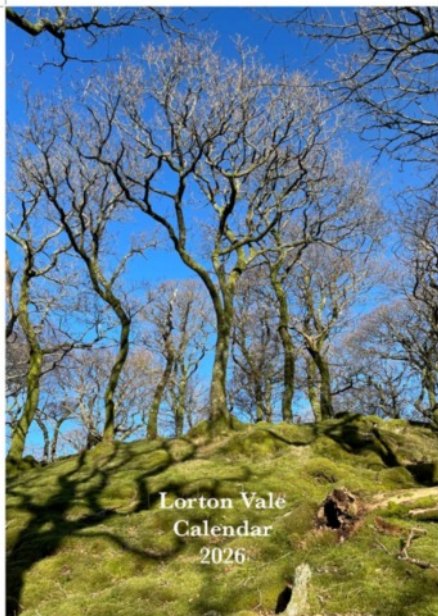
At least 2MB in size

Accompanied by a separate note/email saying which month they were taken in and what/where they are of (not in the filename, please)

and emailed to Rosemary Riley on rriley@rileyitsolutions.co.uk BY THE FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER

There will even be a PRIZE for the best newcomer (not previously featured in a Lorton Vale Calendar).

Here are a two shots from this year's calendar to give you a little inspiration...



Sunday 11th October

HARVEST **Festival & Lunch**

Harvest Festival
St Cuthbert's Church
10.30-11.30pm

with presentation of harvest
gifts and produce at the altar

Harvest Lunch
Yew Tree Hall
1.00-3.30pm
£10 adults/ £5 children

followed by auction of
harvest gifts and produce



**If you'd like a glass of wine, a beer or a soft drink with your
TatiePot - please bring your own as there will be no bar this year.**

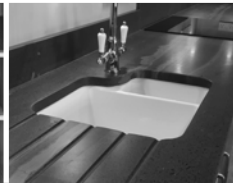
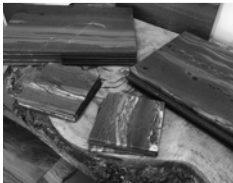
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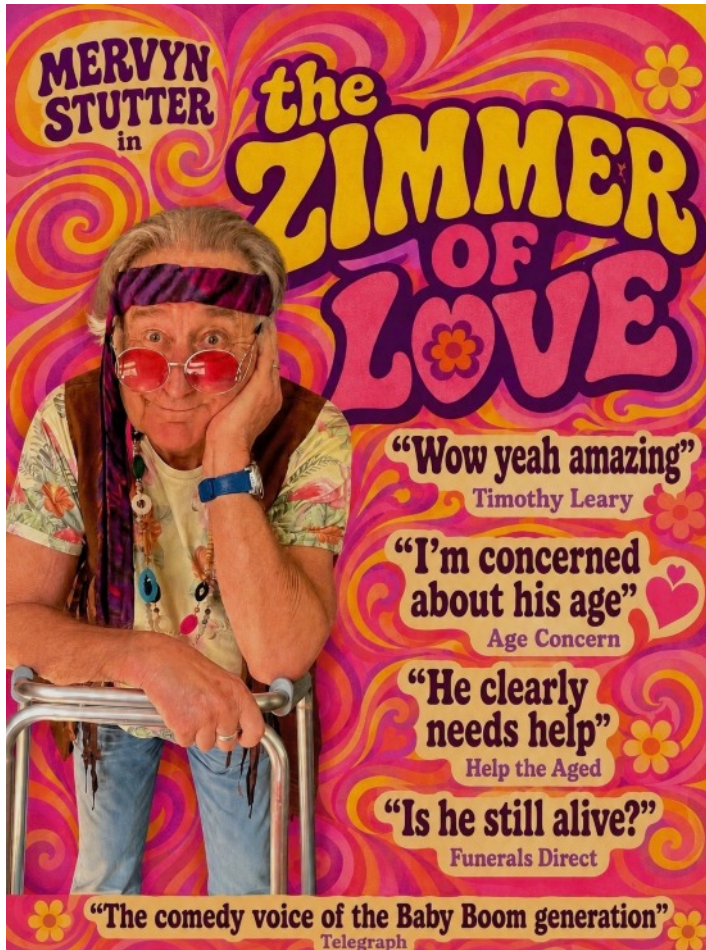
FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER at 7 30pm

The return to Cumbria of Mervyn Stutter after his 2 two previous sell out tours
Great entertainment combining music and comedy

Tickets £12 including light refreshments. Bring your own beer, wine etc if you wish

Helen Finn 07786 01667; Margaret Trotter 01946 861458 or from the Kirkgate

Sponsored by Arts Out West





Coffee Morning

In Loweswater Village Hall



Saturday October 10th - 10.00 'till 12.00

Coffee/Tea & Cakes

and an opportunity to catch up with friends & neighbours

Photographs by Rosamund & John Macfarlane

Project updates, displays & sales from Melbreak Wildlife Group

Lorton & Loweswater Butterfly 2027 Calendar from Stuart Medland



A Melbreak Communities Event

Proceeds in aid of Village Hall & Melbreak Wildlife Funds

loweswatervillagehall.co.uk

Charity No 526856



Loweswater Ladies September Report

The first meeting, after a glorious summer break, of Loweswater Ladies was held on Wednesday 9th of September at Loweswater Village Hall. It was attended by 14 ladies all ready to put our curling skills to the test. Val Bell kindly provided the equipment necessary, organised us into teams of two and kept a meticulous score. There was a lot of competition and strategic play plus much hilarity. Suffice to say, I don't think Loweswater Ladies will, without a lot of practice, be attending the next winter Olympics. However, many thanks go to Val for her patience and good humour.

We also celebrated a significant birthday for one of our Ladies with a glass of Prosecco

and birthday cake. All in all it was nice to be back together again and looking forward to our forthcoming events and speakers. The next meeting will be on Wednesday October 14th when Harriet Fear Davies will give a talk entitled "My Life at (Not in) the Bar". As always non-members are very welcome at £2:50 for the evening.

Jenny Burr

DIARY DATES

OCT

- 2 Fri AoW- A Brief History of Music LVH 7:30. See poster to book.
- 3 Sat Apple Day - see poster
- 4 Sun Free Hedgerow Survey Training. 10:00am to 12:30pm, Lorton (venue TBC)
- 5 Mon Loweswater Harvest Supper - see poster
- 10 Sat Melbreak Communities Coffee Morning LVH see poster for times)
- 11 Sun Lorton Harvest Lunch - see poster
- 12 Mon Community Lunch at Lorton School 1.15pm. Booking essential. See Poster
- 13 Tue Open Afternoon, Lorton School 4pm
- 14 Wed Loweswater Ladies - LVH 7:15pm - Life at the Bar
- 15 Thu Crafternoon - LVH 2-4pm. All welcome.
- 15 Thu YTH Lorton Film Club, 'Black Bag' Starts 7.30pm, Bar opens 7pm. See poster
- 20 Tue Loweswater 77 Club - AGM and Evening talk Mark Hatton LVH 7.30pm
- 24 Sat Race Night at Yew Tree Hall - see Poster
- 29 Thu Lorton Vale Gardening Club. AGM & Talk by Natasha Coleman from Growing Well Charity - see poster

NOV

- 4 Wed Lorton Parish Council meeting 7.30pm YTH
- 5 Thu Loweswater Parish Council meeting 7.30pm Loweswater Village hall.
- 9 Mon Community Lunch at Lorton School 1.15pm. Booking essential. See Poster
- 11 Wed Loweswater Ladies - LVH 7:15pm - Linking Lives
- 14 Sat FOLS & St Cuthbert's Coffee Morning, YTH, 10.30 - see poster
- 17 Tue Loweswater 77 Club - Evening talk Air Ambulance LVH 7.30pm
- 19 Thu Crafternoon - LVH 2-4pm. All welcome.
- 19 Thu A History of Slate Quarrying in the Lake District, Mark Hatton, L&DFLHS, 7.30 pm, YTH
- 20 Fri Kath and Emma sing Queen. LVH See poster for tickets.
- 20 Fri Lorton Film Club YTH 'Sorry we missed you' Starts 7.30pm. Bar opens 7pm
- 26 Thu 'Wild Ennerdale' by Gareth Browning MBE. Melbreak Wildlife Group YTH 7.30 pm

Please note that Table Tennis takes place in YTH every Wednesday from 7-9p.m. unless otherwise notified. There are Keep Fit sessions in LVH every Monday 9.00-10.00a.m and every Friday 5.30-6.30p.m. These will not be listed every month in Diary Dates but can be found on the Melbreak

Communities diary page - www.melbreakcommunities.org.uk

WHEN ATTENDING EVENTS AT THE YEW TREE HALL PLEASE ENSURE YOU PARK RESPONSIBLY

The United Benefice of Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere

October 2026

4 th Oct	Trinity 18	
10.30am	Holy Communion & Harvest Festival	Loweswater
11 th Oct	Trinity 19	
10.30am	Harvest Festival	Lorton
6pm	Holy Communion	Buttermere
18 th Oct	Trinity 20	
10.30am	Holy Communion	Loweswater
25 th Oct	Last after Trinity	
10.30am	Holy Communion	Lorton
3pm	Evensong	Buttermere

Service information for the Grasmoor Mission Community and news of other events is published weekly on a Friday in our Staying Connected news sheet. The sheet is available on the GMC website or if you would like it sent directly to your inbox please email Sue Lake on gmcoffice@grasmoormc.church with your request. Services are also advertised two weeks ahead on the GMC website: grasmoormc.church/stayingconnected. Lois, the Community Chaplain, can be contacted on community.chaplain.gmc@gmail.com, and weddings etc can

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Deadline for November is Friday 23rd October - all articles, photos (especially for the front cover), funny stories, letters to lortonvalelink@gmail.com by this date. Thank you

If you are reading this copy second hand and wish to have your own individual copy delivered on the day of publication, please contact Ian Smith on his email:- isumisu@gmail.com and he will arrange payment and delivery.